

PEDOPHILE OR SEXUAL PREDATOR

UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE

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SEGUIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

CRIMES AGAINST PERSON(S) INVESTIGATOR

BIOGRAPHY

- 15 year veteran of law enforcement
- 2002-2004- Lakeway Police Department (Travis County) Patrol Officer
- 2004-present-Seguin Police Department (Guadalupe County)
- 2010-present-assigned to Criminal Investigations Division
- Specialize in Child physical and sexual abuse cases
- Guadalupe County MDT member

PEDOPHILE OR SEXUAL PREDATOR OBJECTIVES

- The participant will be able to identify the difference between a sexual predator and a pedophile.
- The participant will be able to identify the traits often displayed with both type of offenders.
- The participant will be able to identify any future risks associated with the subject.

UNDERSTANDING THE LAW

- Indecency with a child-usually does not include penetration of the sex organ, mouth or anus of the child.
- Examples of Indecency can be exposure or contact (touching of the sex organ or breasts, over or under the clothing.)
- The suspect does not use duress, force or threat during the incident .
- Child is under the age of 17

UNDERSTANDING THE LAW CONTINUED

- Aggravated sexual assault: under the age of 14, use of force, threat or duress or involve a child under the age of 6.
- Sexual assault of a child: engaging in sexual activity with a subject under the age of 17, having an age separation of more than three years or using force, duress or threat to facilitate the sexual assault.
- Sexual performance by a child: under age of 18
- Improper relationship (educator): primary or secondary age children.

UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

- 60 % of prostitutes advised having been sexually abused as children
- 65% of prison inmates @the Ferguson Unit (TDC) claimed to have been the victim of either physical or sexual abuse.
- 60 to 80% of adults with a drug or alcohol dependency claimed to have been abused as children
- An estimated 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 10 boys were abused prior to turning 18 according to a 1979 study of college students.

PEDOPHILE VS SEXUAL PREDATOR

- **Activities:** Pedophiles generally have an attraction to pre-pubescent children and often become obsessed with certain physical traits (e.g. hair color, etc.)
- **Age difference:** Not relating to being in or occurring in the period of development immediately preceding **pubescence** (pubescent children prepubescent growth, not having the characteristics associated with being an adult male or female).
- **Example:** The body hair or not having developed breasts in females.
- **Pedophiles** often target individuals who have children that they are attracted to in order to facilitate access to the child.
- **Predators** will target interest in an adult or an adult relationship. Pedophiles will engage in sexual activity with the parent despite not being attracted to the parent in order to gain access to the child.

PEDOPHILES

- Most pedophiles establish a trust with the child and the child's family in order to facilitate a "loving relationship" with the child.
- Pedophiles often "groom" their victims. Examples of this include exposing the child to pornography, light touching and massaging and gifting to gain the child's trust.
- Pedophiles are generally well liked in the community and often seek employment or charities which allow access to children.

PEDOPHILES

- Pedophiles rarely using physical force to facilitate sexual abuse and often make the child feel as if they are in a relationship.
- The child victim often feels responsible for the sexual activity and often waits for an extended period of time before disclosing to someone that they have been sexually abused.
- Due to the delayed outcry, physical evidence is rarely recovered from the victim's body.

PEDOPHILES

- Pedophiles often keep "trophy" after engaging in sexual activity with their victim.
- Trophies include under garments, items important to the victim and photos or video of the sexual abuse.
- Pedophiles will often retain the trophies despite knowing that an investigation regarding the sexual abuse has begun. This is important as trophies may be in the residence even during home visits from the parole or probation officer.

PEDOPHILES

- Although pedophiles understand that intercourse or sexual contact with juveniles is a criminal act, they often do not think of the abused as a victim and may not see it as "wrong".
- Pedophiles often agree to police interviews and will rarely confess unless supportive evidence is presented during the interview (witness statements, photo or video evidence, observed unusual circumstances, secondary victim testimony, etc.).
- Most pedophiles have a fear of being labeled as a sex offender and having to serve a prison sentence due to the stigma associated with the offense.

PEDOPHILES

- Due to the advancement of cellular and internet technology, pedophiles often visit sights known to have underage children (On line gaming, gaming forums, etc.) to meet and target children.
- Pedophiles will often research the target child's online presence to find what the child likes or dislikes (Facebook or Instagram posts etc.), and what is happening in that child's life.
- Pedophiles often request and send sexually explicit material to the child however disguise themselves by using screen names and rarely send photos that include their face to avoid prosecution.

PEDOPHILES

- These subjects do not react well during interviews, if the interviewer is confrontational, accusatory or appears angry.
- This interview style will often end in the accused requesting an attorney and prematurely ending the interview

PEDOPHILES

- Can be of any social class, race or religion and are often trusted members of society.
- Pedophiles can be treated but there is no cure.

RISKS INVOLVED WITH PEDOPHILE OFFENDERS

- A large portion of pedophile offenders have "trophy" of their victims, do your best to determine what trophies your offender may be keeping and where they are hidden
- Pedophiles will often have child pornography, attempt to gain access to any electronic devices the subject may have access to . Seize the device as quickly as possible.
- Pedophiles are usually not violent but are a flight risk.

SEXUAL PREDATORS/OPPORTUNISTS

- Sexual Predators/Opportunists usually have adult relationships. Often children are targets of opportunity and the sexual abuse is not planned. Adult victims are usually targeted for a particular characteristic or trait.
- These subjects are often left alone with the victim and due to alcohol or drug abuse have difficulty controlling their sexual urges. Alcohol or drugs are sometimes utilized to facilitate sexual assault in adults and children.
- May be biological parents, step-parents or other relatives or family friends with free access to the child victim. Sexual assaults by strangers is rare in adults or children and there is usually some form of association with the victim.
- Sexual predators/opportunists usually understand that what they are doing is wrong morally and criminally and will rarely confess unless evidence supports the victim allegations.
- Sexual predators/opportunists will interview while under investigation, however they use the interview to determine what evidence is available to support the charge. They will often deny any wrongdoing unless the evidence obtained during the investigation is overwhelming and will "low-key" up if the interview becomes confrontational.

SEXUAL PREDATORS/OPPORTUNISTS

- Usually have no traits or characteristics that they seek out in a child victim, but may target a child who has physical or mental disabilities or has behavioral issues (no one will believe them).
- SEXUAL PREDATORS/OPPORTUNIST CAN BE OF ANY SOCIAL CLASS, RACE, SEX OR RELIGION but are usually males with low self esteem.
- A MAJORITY OF SEX OFFENDERS ARE SEXUAL PREDATORS/OPPORTUNISTS

PEDOPHILES VS SEXUAL PREDATORS

- A MAJORITY OF OFFENDERS PROSECUTED IN GUADALUPE COUNTY ARE SEXUAL PREDATORS and have had age appropriate sexual relationships.
- THE "ROMEO AND JULIET" statute of 3 years is a method to determine age appropriate sexual relationships and can be a defense to prosecution unless other circumstances exist, however there have been circumstances where a subject is not prosecuted despite being in excess of 3 years older than the victim (consensual dating relationship, parental approval and knowledge of the relationship, etc.)

PEDOPHILES VS SEXUAL PREDATORS

- MOST OFFENDERS INCARCERATED IN TEXAS ARE NOT THE CLASSIC PEDOPHILES AS PER THE CLINICAL DEFINITION. Most offenders are sexual predators/opportunists with an inability to control their sexual urges or having been involved in relationships with someone under the age of 17.

DEALING WITH OFFENDERS

- Whether pedophile or predator, accusatory or confrontational interactions will often have negative results.
- Try to "mask" your personal feelings and maintain a professional demeanor when speaking to these offenders.
- Attempt to obtain the offenders digital devices if you suspect the offender may use these devices to access child pornography or may have images of their victims on their devices.

CONTINUED:

- If the offender does not give consent, obtain a search warrant prior to opening the device. Any unauthorized opening or accessing of the device can be discovered when the device is analyzed.
- Even deleted images and materials can be recovered using cellular mobile forensics. Find out what agencies in your area are capable of "dumping" a phone.
- APPLE devices have extremely good security and are difficult if not impossible for most smaller agencies to "break". Try to obtain the password to the device prior to obtaining consent to access the device.
